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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/806,481 | 04/12/2001 | Chang Wan Ryoo | P66550US0 | 5900 |
| 136 | 7590 | 01/05/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC 400 SEVENTH STREET N.W. SUITE 600 WASHINGTON, DC 20004 | | | KIM, AHSHIK | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2876 | |

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/806,481

Applicant(s)

RYOO, CHANG WAN

Examiner

Ahshik Kim

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspond nc address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09/29/03 (RCE).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9-11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4 and 6-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in
5 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is
eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e)
has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action (paper #6) has been withdrawn
pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 29, 2003 has been
entered.

10

Preliminary Amendment

2. Receipt is acknowledged of the preliminary amendment filed on September 29, 2003. In
the amendment claims 1-4 were amended; and claims 5-11 were newly added. Currently, claims
1-11 remain for examination.

15

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1, 5, and 9 were objected to because of the following informalities:

Re claims 1, 5, and 9: last line of the claims respectively: delete "one" in front of "said
master database".

20 Appropriate correction is respectfully suggested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

5 (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

10 5. Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fite et al. (US 6,467,684, "Fite" hereinafter).

Fite teaches a transaction system comprising a prepaid card which can be used in purchasing telecommunication minutes/service or other items (see abstract; col. 1, lines 27+).

15 Each card is uniquely assigned an identification number which is stored in the database. When purchase is made, the settlement occurs as shown in figure 1 or 6. Although Fite may not use the term "settlement server", the process embodied by figures 1 and 6 is the settlement process, and the computers 32 and 30 can broadly interpreted as a component part of the settlement infrastructure.

20 *Allowable Subject Matter*

6. Claims 9-11 are allowed.

7. Claims 2-4 and 6-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

25 The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the claims are directed at a prepaid card and transactions utilizing pre-paid cards. Prepaid cards are

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well known in the art and widely used in various industries. Prepaid cards started with calling card purchasing time for telecommunications, however, the cards are used by virtually all retailers such as bookstores, department stores, restaurants, etc. Accordingly, the methods for purchasing and using prepaid cards are also well known in the art. However, the cited
5 references, taken alone or in combination, fail to show or fairly teach the specific method wherein the prepaid are sold at the card site allowing the users to enter a card number for purchase, and the card delivered to the users after payment has been made as set forth in the claims.

10 *Additional Remarks*

8. It is the Examiner's view that "the" can be interchangeably used with "said" in referring to earlier recitation or limitation (See MPEP 2173.05(e)). Applicant, if chooses, can rephrase the claim language in less awkward manner.

9. For Applicant's review, the computerized translation (available upon request at Japanese
15 Patent Web site) of Japanese patent JP 2002314718 is enclosed with this Office Action.

Conclusion

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I. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Arditti et al. (US 5,991,413); Phillips (US 6,615,189); Pollak et al. (US 6,654,600) disclose prepaid cards and transactions utilizing prepaid cards.

5 II. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Ahshik Kim* whose telephone number is (571)272-2393. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 6:00AM to 3:00PM Monday thru Friday.

10 If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (571)272-2398. The fax number directly to the Examiner is (703) 746-4782. The fax phone number for this Group is (703)872-9306.


Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [ahshik.kim@uspto.gov].

15 *All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.*

20 Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



25 Ahshik Kim
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2876
December 24, 2003



MICHAEL G. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800